



## **Conservation Successes – May 2003**

### **Tapoco Hydropower Settlement Agreement Results in 10,000 Acres Protected in North Carolina and Tennessee**

Little Tennessee River (May 10, 2004) - At a scenic overlook separating Great Smoky Mountains National Park from the Cherokee National Forest, a group of nearly 150 stakeholders gathered for the ceremonial signing of the comprehensive settlement agreement concerning the continued operation of a series of four dams owned by ALCOA Power Generating Inc., a subsidiary of ALOCA Aluminum.



Department of Interior Assistant Secretary Craig Manson congratulating the stakeholders at Calderwood Overlook in Tennessee. Seated to his left are Kevin Anton, President ALCOA, Rep John Duncan (R-TN), and Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN)

The dams and their reservoirs, located on the Little Tennessee and Cheoah rivers straddling the North Carolina-Tennessee border, were the focus of more than five years of negotiations between ALCOA and numerous stakeholders. The National Park Service Hydropower Assistance Program coordinated with Park staff, as well as the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Office of the Solicitor, and other stakeholders to help forge the agreement.

At the core of the agreement is the protection of nearly 10,000 acres of undeveloped forest lands, "the largest and most important tract east of the Mississippi," according to Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN). Together, the lands create a vital ecological linkage between the National Park and the National Forest. The agreement has resulted in improved river flows, enhanced river recreation, and the establishment of a mitigation fund of \$125,000 annually for the life of the new FERC license (presumably 40 years). The agreement has been touted as an unprecedented "win-win-win" in the southeast in that it is the first of its kind to benefit industry, environmental groups, and government agencies. Other major stakeholders include The Nature Conservancy, American Rivers, National Parks Conservation Association,



Senator Lamar Alexander addresses stakeholders with protected lands in the background.

National Center for Recreation and Conservation programs:

- Federal Lands to Parks (FLP) - Hydropower Recreation Assistance (HRA) -
- Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) - National Trails System (NTS) - Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers (PWSR) -
- Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) - Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery (UPARR) -

Tennessee Clean Water Network, Western Carolina Alliance, and the states of North Carolina and Tennessee. For more information, please contact Jeff Duncan, Southeast Regional Rivers Program Manager, Chattanooga, TN, at [jeff\\_duncan@nps.gov](mailto:jeff_duncan@nps.gov) or 423-266-1150.

## **Groundbreaking for the "Medical Mile"**

Trails and Health celebrated by community partners

Little Rock, Arkansas (May 19, 2004) – A groundbreaking ceremony for the "Medical Mile" of the Arkansas River Trail brought the community together to celebrate the health benefits of trails and enjoy an "Out for Lunch" nutrition event sponsored by the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension. At the ceremony, Arkansas Dept. of Health Director Fay Boozman presented a check to the city of Little Rock for \$113,330 to support trail construction. The National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program is assisting with public outreach, partnership development, and planning for this trail which centers on health, environmental, and economic benefits as motivators for building trails.

The planned Arkansas River Trail will link the cities of Little Rock and North Little Rock on a 24 mile loop, passing by Pinnacle Mountain State Park and the Clinton Presidential Library and over Murray Lock and Dam. Partners participating in the groundbreaking included the city of Little Rock, Pulaski County, Metroplan, AR Dept. of Parks & Tourism, AR Dept. of Health, Heart Clinic AR, Governor's Council on Fitness, Univ. of AR Cooperative Extension Service, Channel 7, Bicycle Advocacy of Central AR, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the National Park Service. For more information, please contact Diana Allen, RTCA Outdoor Recreation Planner, at [diana\\_allen@nps.gov](mailto:diana_allen@nps.gov) or 314-436-1324.

## **Surplus Flood Control Project Parcels Expand Community Park**

Rural community obtains site to provide link in Hatfield-McCoy Trail

Williamson, WV (April 5, 2004) – The National Park Service's Federal Lands to Parks program transferred at no cost 1.04 acres to the City of Williamson, West Virginia, for public park and recreation use. Located within the Tug Fork River floodplain in downtown Williamson, the property will provide a camping area for visitors to the well-known cross-state Hatfield-McCoy Trail System.



An overview of the property showing initial park development.

Formerly acquired by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for a flood control project along the Tug Fork River, the property is valued at over \$92,000. This is the second Federal Lands to Parks property conveyance in Williamson. In 1999, 4.93-acres were conveyed to Williamson for the creation of two neighborhood parks known as the West End and the East End Parks. This new addition is adjacent to and will expand the East End Park site. The transfer was negotiated by NPS Federal Lands to Parks staff. For more information, please contact Bill Huie, Federal Lands to Parks Program Manager, Atlanta, GA, at [bill\\_huie@nps.gov](mailto:bill_huie@nps.gov) or 404-562-3175.

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## **Madera County Accepts Grant to Develop Ahwahnee Hills Park**

Public-private partnership will sustain park and provide model for future parks

Madera, CA (May 25, 2004) – The Madera County Board of Supervisors voted to accept a \$417,600 grant through the State of California's Sierra Nevada Cascade Grant Program to transform a 241-acre site in the Sierra Nevada foothills into the County's first natural park. Located on historic and scenic Highway 49 near the southern gateway to Yosemite National Park, the Ahwahnee Hills Park will provide an attraction to the region's many visitors, while meeting the need for local open space and recreation resources for Madera County's residents. For the past six months, the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program has been assisting the County and a citizen-based planning committee to articulate the community's vision for the park, develop a conceptual park plan, and generate a cost estimate for on-going operations and maintenance. RTCA and the committee also developed a brochure to help expand the community-based partnership that will oversee operations and maintenance of the site in cooperation with the County. For more information, please contact Anne Dove, RTCA, at [anne\\_dove@nps.gov](mailto:anne_dove@nps.gov) or 323-441-9307.

## **Parks and Recreation Department Obtains a Permanent Address**

Huron, OH (April 9, 2004) – The National Park Service's Federal Lands to Parks Program transferred the former U.S. Coast Guard "Old Aids to Navigation Team (ANT) Huron" to the City of Huron at no cost for park and recreation use. This 1-acre surplus property, improved with several buildings, was valued at approximately \$100,000. The City of Huron Parks and Recreation Department had been leasing the property from the Coast Guard for administrative offices and park maintenance facility and will continue this same use. NPS Federal Lands to Parks staff facilitated the transfer.



City of Huron Parks and Recreation Administration Offices

For more information, please contact Elyse LaForest, Federal Lands to Parks Program Manager, at [Elyse\\_LaForest@nps.gov](mailto:Elyse_LaForest@nps.gov) or 617-223-5190.

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Conservation Successes informs Department of Interior staff, conservation partners, and friends about the program successes of the National Center for Recreation and Conservation. For more details, please contact the staff person involved with each project.

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